

SCHOOL SITING TASK FORCE Work Plan

Problem Statement:

In the 1990's and into the 2000's, with rising land costs in urban areas and rapid growth, many school districts serving both urban and rural student-residents of King County purchased rural land for future school sites. Since that time, demographic and policy changes have occurred and there are examples of best practices that reflect a more community-based approach to school siting. In order to address the changing environment and support school districts in their obligation to provide quality education for the children of King County, the following strategy is recommended.

The Growth Management Planning Council shall take the following actions:

- Table the following King County Countywide Planning Policies from the Final Draft dated June 15, 2011: DP-50, PF-12, PF-18, and PF-19 and, prior to the work of a task force recommendation, abstain from taking action on policies relating to school siting; and
- Adopt a motion requesting that the King County Executive convene a School Siting Task Force, the mission, scope and constitution of which shall be as set forth below.

Task Force Mission:

Develop recommendations to better align city, county, and school districts' planning for future school facilities in order to provide quality education for all children and maximize health, environmental, programmatic, fiscal and social objectives.

Scope:

The Task Force shall:

- Evaluate the current inventory of rural properties owned by King County school districts;
- Evaluate vacant properties in the UGA owned by King County/applicable jurisdictions for potential school use;
- Evaluate the challenges/opportunities with acquiring adequate school sites within the urban growth boundary;
- Evaluate the issues with siting schools in rural areas;
- Evaluate present and potential capacity and service area needs in districts with urban and rural student populations;
- Produce a set of guidelines for use or disposition of the undeveloped school sites that are consistent with the principles below;
- Recommend legislative and other strategies as needed; and
- Submit a report and recommendations to the King County Executive by February 15, 2012.

Guiding Principles:

The Task Force shall be guided in its work by the following principles:

- Academic Excellence: Educational facilities should promote and support the academic achievement of all students.
- Equitable: All children should have access to quality educational facilities.

Attachment A to Motion 11-2

- Financially Sustainable: School siting decisions should be financially sustainable for each impacted jurisdiction (school districts, cities, County unincorporated area, sewer/water districts) and make the most efficient use of total tax dollars.
- Sustainable Growth: Planning for school facilities shall comply with state law and be integrated with other regional and local planning including land use, transportation, environment and public health.
- Community assets: Schools should unite the communities in which they are located and be compatible with community character.
- Based on existing data and evidence: The Task Force shall utilize recent demographic, buildable lands inventory, and other relevant data and information.
- Public Engagement: The Task Force process should include robust community engagement with impacted communities; meetings will be transparent and open to public observation. The task force shall provide opportunities for public comment.
- Best Practice & Innovation: Lasting recommendations that will serve the region well for years to come and support educational, health, environmental, fiscal and social objectives.

Task Force Membership Categories:

1. Chair (appointed by County Executive)
2. 2 SCA representatives
3. Superintendent of Auburn School District or designee (3 sites)
4. Superintendent of Enumclaw School District or designee (3 sites)
5. Superintendent of Kent School District or designee (4 sites)
6. Superintendent of Tahoma School District or designee (1 site)
7. Superintendent of Lake Washington School District or designee (4 sites)
8. Superintendent representing other urban/rural school district (Northshore, Snoq Valley, or Issaquah, or designee)
9. Superintendent representing a fully urban school district (Seattle, Federal Way, Mercer Island, Renton, Bellevue, Tukwila, or Shoreline) or designee
10. Superintendent of a fully rural school district (Vashon) or designee
11. King County Executive or designee
12. City of Auburn Mayor or designee
13. City of Sammamish Mayor or designee
14. City of Kent Mayor or designee
15. City of Redmond Mayor or designee
16. Real estate expert
17. Developer
18. PTSA representative residing in one of the urban/rural school districts
19. Washington State Department of Commerce representative
20. Open Space advocate
21. Smart Growth advocate
22. Land use attorney
23. PSRC representative
24. DDES Director
25. School siting expert
26. Residents of communities near school sites (not to exceed 4 members)

Attachment A to Motion 11-2

Technical Advisory Committee

The Task Force shall be supported by a Technical Advisory Committee that includes the following expertise:

- Lead Staff: King County
- SCA staff
- Land Use Policy / Planning
- Permitting
- Transportation Planning / Engineering
- Public Health / Environmental Health Expert
- Demography / Geography

Facilitator

The work of the Task Force shall be coordinated by an experienced facilitator.

Meeting / Process Rules

The Task Force shall adopt operating protocols that are acceptable to all parties.

Funding

King County is working to identify funds to support the work of the Task Force.